

Weekly Column for January 3, 2008

Welcome to 2008, which I hope will mirror the enthusiastic shouts Monday evening from revelers that '08 will be great.

There are some very exciting things happening in the City of Troy right now, and this year is an important one in making sure momentum is not lost.

On Hoosick Street, we will see a brand-new Hilton Garden Inn built, a \$22-million project that will bring more than 150 new jobs to Troy. Capitalizing on new development along Hoosick Street will be vital for us moving forward. It is no longer a residential corridor, and that point must be understood.

The Troy Downtown Collaborative is also expected to formally present a plan for a Business Improvement District in 2008, a step I believe is essential for the downtown area to take the next step forward in revitalization.

Last year we announced a campaign to change the perception of the City of Troy from both the inside and the outside. I am happy to say that within six weeks we will have the results to share with everyone. Look forward to that being implemented later this spring.

These topics and many, many more will be discussed in more detail on February 7th, 2008 at 7 p.m. when I deliver my fifth State of the City Address. I want to take this time to extend an informal invitation to everyone that happens to read this column. The speech is usually about 30 minutes long, and promises to give an important update on where Troy stands.

Many of the themes will be familiar, but each is important. Past speeches can be found on the website under Mayor's Office. It certainly has been an interesting four years.

Not to focus on the obvious, but it's very cold out there today, please be sure to check loved ones, and take care to keep warm. Hang in there; the warmer air is on the way next week. Fingers crossed.

Have a great weekend!

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy